

FOREST ADMINISTRATION REPORT OF THE CENTRAL CIRCLE,  
BOMBAY PRESIDENCY, FOR THE FOREST YEAR 1894-95.

INTRODUCTION.

1. *Forest-conservancy-administration* in the Central Circle has undergone no change ; it includes six districts :—

No.	District.	Area.	Population.	Cattle.
		Sq. m.		
1	Khándesh	10,907	1,460,851	1,231,096
2	Násik	5,940	843,582	844,949
3	Ahmednagar	6,645	888,755	1,295,473
4	Poona	5,369	1,067,800	981,547
5	Sátára	4,987	1,225,989	1,215,623
6	Sholápur	4,542	750,689	885,911
	Total	38,390	6,237,666	6,454,599

which for forest management are divided into seven forest divisions :—

No.	Forest Division.	Forest Area on 1st July 1894.	
		Sq. miles.	Acres.
1	East Khándesh	807	359
2	West Khándesh	1,578	485
3	Násik	1,279	129
4	Ahmednagar	846	374
5	Poona	708	224
6	Sátára	658	616
7	Sholápur	278	85
	Total	6,157	352

2. The *forest-area* of the Circle has increased by 159 square miles and 630 acres, and it stands at the close of the year at :—

	Square miles.	Acres.
Reserved forests	6,805	212
Protected ,,	12	130
Total	6,817	342

3. *Forest-settlements* are practically completed : 162 square miles and 249 acres of provisionally notified forests were settled during the year, and 13 square miles and 395 acres were undergoing settlement when the year closed.

4. *Forest-privileges* continue unchanged, no new ones having been granted, no old ones having been abrogated or abridged, or extended to more people.

5. *Forest-establishments* have undergone no revision: their constitution and numerical strength consist of:—

(a) Indian Forest Service	...	...	...	10
(b) Provincial Forest Service	...	...	...	4
Extra Assistant Conservators	...	...	...	4
(c) Subordinate Forest Service—				
Rangers...	...	...	...	16
and Foresters	...	...	...	64
			—	80
Forest Guards	...	...	...	1,475
(d) Office Establishment	...	...	...	91

6. *Forest-demarcation* spread over 833 linear miles of forest boundaries which were defined by 19,103 special forest boundary marks, built at a cost of Rs. 7,873.

7. *Forest-surveys* have surveyed and mapped:—

Scale.	Square miles.	Rate per square mile.		
		Rs	a.	p.
On the 4" scale	159.35	81	1	4
On the 8" scale	113.03	110	13	7
On the 16" scale	24.24	116	7	3

at a total cost of Rs. 27,136.

8. *Forest-Working-Plans* under a special Divisional Forest Officer have been applied to 1,150 square miles of reserved forests in which 433 compartments of forest blocks have been defined on the ground, including an area of 37,049 acres.

9. *Forest-offences* in respect of which prosecutions were instituted numbered 1,716 against 1,437 in the year before: and 1,458 cases have been compounded against 926 in the previous year.

10. *Forest-trespass* by cattle caused the impounding of 337,918 animals against 294,769 of last year; 100,082 of them were sheep, and 73,882 were goats.

11. *Forest-conservancy* against fires has been less satisfactory, the year of this report having been a drier one, and the vegetation in the forests having been more inflammable in consequence: 6,010 square miles and 161 acres were successfully protected against 6,126 square miles and 298 acres of 1893-94.

12. *Forest-growth*: improvement by natural as well as by artificial reproduction has been satisfactory on the whole.

13. *Forest-finances* are flourishing although the net revenue of the year exhibits a decrease of Rs. 59,109 on that of the preceding year. The gross revenue amounted to Rs. 7,84,401 and the total expenditure to Rs. 5,42,471. Had a contractor in the Násik division paid before the end of the year the whole price of the standing teak timber purchased by him for felling and removing at his own expense from lands outside of the reserved forests in the Peint range in 5 villages, the gross and the net revenues of the year of this report would have exceeded those of last, and of any previous year.

14. The *Forest Officers* who controlled the forest administration of the different divisions, with the periods they held charge respectively, are named in the following statement. The Honourable Mr. A. T. Shuttleworth was Conservator of Forests, first grade, in charge of the Central Circle, throughout the year:—